

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method to provide a resource adapter that collaborates to provide connections with ~~an application server~~ one of a plurality of application servers and an enterprise information system (EIS), ~~which to provide~~ provides services offered by ~~an enterprise information system (EIS)~~ the EIS, comprising:

packaging a deployment descriptor into the resource adapter; and  
deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor, the deploying including,  
configuring the resource adapter in the target operational environment  
to create a connection to an instance of the EIS,  
the connections of the target operational environment being defined  
between one of the application servers and the EIS.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the deploying the resource adapter into ~~[[a]]~~ the target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring application server mechanisms for transaction management.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the deploying the resource adapter into ~~[[a]]~~ the target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring security in the target operational environment.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the packaging includes,

packaging interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information into the resource adapter.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the target operational environment is selected from the group consisting of an application server and a Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) application.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A system to provide a resource adapter that collaborates to provide connections with an application server one of a plurality of application servers and an enterprise information system (EIS), which to provide provides services offered by ~~an enterprise information system (EIS)~~ the EIS, comprising:

a memory for storing a connector provider and a deployer; and

a processor for executing the connector provider and the deployer stored in the

memory.

[[a]] the connector provider including,

logic to create for creating the resource adapter, and the connector provider

logic for specifying a deployment descriptor in the resource adapter, [[; and]]

[[a]] the deployer including logic for deploying to deploy the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor, the deploying including,

configuring the resource adapter in the target operational environment  
to create a connection to an instance of the EIS, the connections of the target  
operational environment being defined between one of the application servers  
and the EIS.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes a connector, the connector enabling connections to the EIS.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes connector contracts between the connector provider and the deployer.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes declarative information enabling the deployer to deploy the resource adapter into the target operational environment.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the resource adapter includes interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information.